

5
A DECLARATION made by my
lozd pzince of Conde. for to shew and
declare the causes, that haue cōstrai-
ned him to take vpon him the de-
fence of the Kinges authori-
tie of the gouernement
of the Queene,
and of
the quietnes of this Realme, with
the pzotestation therevpon
requisite.

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1562.

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A Declaration

made by my lord Prince of Conde,
to shew and declare the causes that haue con-
strayned him to take vpon hym the defence
of the Kinges authoritie, of the gouernement
of the queene, and of the quietnes of this
realme, with the protestation there-
vpon requisite.



Although it bee these
parte which arme the
selues firste by their
owne pꝛiuate autho-
ritie, to gyue a rea-
son and cause of their
doynge: Yet the Lorde Prince of
Conde considering how muche this
present sturre and tumult, by reaso
of diuers circumstances, is subiect
to many & sondrie iudgemētes, besi-
des that the common damage requi-
reth a sure and speedye reamedie,
thought it good to pꝛeuent al sclau-
derous tales and misrepꝛtes, and
to declare as here foloweth, the cau-
ses whiche haue moued hym to asso-
ciate hym selfe wpth his kynssolke
frendes, and seruauntes, soꝛ to do
seruice vnto the kynge, to the
A. II. Quene,



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A. II. Quene,

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Queens, and to all this realme, in their great necessitie and nede.

Every man knoweth, that after the great troubles happened aboute matters of religion (where with it is moſte manifeſt that manye abuſinge the naturall goodneſſe of our kinges, haue ſerued their owne turnes to eſtabliſhe & to maiſtein their greatnes and honour). Finallye in the moneth of Januarie laſte paſte, there was an edicte or decree made by his maieſtie, to rule and order both the partes, with the aduiſe of the moſt notable and beſt choſen aſſemblye that the kinge coulde choſe in all his parlements.

This decre and commaundement being ſhortly after publiſhed, in the moſt part of the parlements of this Realme, gaue a great hope of reſt and quietnes as the effect declared: and no doubt, if y^e parlement of Paris had not vſed ſuche a delay, the tranquillitie of y^e towne and of the whole parlement therof had bene, & ſhoulde yet haue bene muche moze then we ſe it now to be.

The

The let of this publication hathe engendred by iuste occasion diuers suspicions, that that was not done wout great practise whiche tended to a further ende, whiche thing was confirmed by the goings & comings and drifts of the prouoste of the Marchauntes of Paris, with the parcialities that euerye man knew to bee betwene the presidents and counsaillers of the said courte. Also y all men knew how the Constable being sued vnto and layed vpon by certaine parcial Marchaunts had filled the w a certain hope y this decre concerning religion, should not continue long: Notwithstandinge, y moued not y said lord prynce any thing at all, nor yet others of the reformed churches, to saue or do any thing that shoulde trouble the comon quietnes of this realme: but in the middst of an infinite number of violences & outragious wronges wherof they could neuer haue iustice, they haue taried & looked for the issue of the publication w the greatest modestie and patience that they coude.

The protestation of

This publication being made at Paris with great, earnest, and importunate suite, and rather by prayer and request than by the commandement of the king or of the queene. The sayd lord pynce after a grevous sickenes, toke hys leaue of the king and the queene, in hope to rest him selfe a whyle at his house.

23 In the meane tyme newes were broughte of the cruell and horrible butcherlye slaughter committed at Massye in the presence and company of h^e duke of Guyse, where were most tyrannously slayne many of the kinges subiectes, as well men as women and children, whiche were assembled togpyther to heare a Sermon, and to pray vnto God, folowing the religion and pure worde of god, which h^e sayd lord pynce maintaineth with them, and trusteth to mayntayne vnto death, by all meanes lawfull.

This cruelty thus reported at Paris, moued in sundrie wyse, the one partye and the other, in suche sorte that there was euen at that tyme
great

greate likelyhode that some greate
 mischefe woulde ensue of it, the ru-
 mour being spzedde abrode that the
 sayde Duke of Guyse came in ar-
 mour & wth a great company beyng
 determined to roote by and destroye
 all the congregations whiche they
 call of the newe religion, the whi-
 che also for their part, considering
 that the kings decre and ordinance
 semed not to be able to maintayne
 them against the force, violence and
 rage of their enemies, stode at their
 defence hauinge firste sente to the
 Quene certayne men of learnynge
 and vertue, for to demaunde of her
 iustice for the murder committed in
 the sayd place of wassy. Thys was
 the cause why the sayd lord Prynce
 beinge at that tyme in good houre
 arryued at Paris, for to goe to his
 house, and despynde to remedie the
 inconueniencies that threatened the
 towne of Paris, went at the com-
 maundement of the Queene to meete
 the king & her at Bonceaur, where
 he told them what he feared, and ad-
 uertised them that for the auoyding

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of trouble it should be good that the Duke of Guyse whom men sayd did come with great power, and with a great company armed with standinge the kinges decree and ordenaunce, at the lest should not passe through the sayde towne of Paris, whiche thing was found good by the quene and vpon occasion she wrote vnto him with her owne hand.

Now the saide Prince hoped that the said duke of Guyse would haue obeyd the Queene, and whiche is more, that in laying a syde his weapons would haue submitted himself with all his companie, to the order of iustice equalye obserued in this realme, as well in the behalfe of the lest as of the greatest when they be accused of anye crime, and that he would haue come straighte to the kinge and the quene with al humilitie, according to his dutie: But it chanced cleene contrary. for making no other answer, but that he was busied at Pantuill in feastinge his frendes, he went straight to Paris with a very great companie of hys
kins

kinssfolke and frends, and seruantes, and others, with open armour. And he may not go about to excuse him selfe for taking the said arm out and gathering suche a company together for feare y he had of them of y reformed churches w men call Huguenots whiche is as muche to save as heretikes. For it is wel known that before the murder at Massye. he marched with weapons forbidden by the kinges decree and ordinance. Also that the most parte of them that did accompany hym had bene longe before called together by him, and by others, out of al places of this realme, so that longe before there was no taile at Paris but of that, and of his coming.

Furthermore, knowing that those of the reformed churches tooke the way of lawe and iustice accordynge to their dutie, it appeareth playnly that if he had not sought but his owne safteie, he woulde have gone straighte to the courte accordynge to the commandemente of the Kyng and Quene.

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It appeared also, y this comming was practised of longe tyme before: because that not onely the company of the Constable and diuers other which in the meane time were gathered together, did ioyne themselves with him but: also the prouost of the Marchauntes with a greates troupe of the said towne went to receue him, and this entrey was made in open armour with great acclamation of men hyzed and suborned, as if the kinge him selfe had entred in person. The Duke of Guyse no, anye of his bande not shewing any signe or tokē that they were displeased any thing at it.

Nowe the sayd lord prince beyng returned from Ponceaur the daye before, as is sayd, fully determined to goe on his iourney towarde hys house, and being soddenlye aduertised of the comming of the sayd duke of Guyse with such a companie and route armed, determined lyke a pryncce of the bloode royall for the seruyce of the kynges Maiestie, and the profite of the common wealtb,
to

the prynce of Conde.

to see and prouyde for that whiche
the sodenness of suche a matter re-
quired, folowynge the prayers and
instaunt request of an infinite num-
ber of poore men, fearynge that it
shoulde happē to them as it did vnto
those of Massye. And for this cause
& effecte, where as he neuer thought
of any suche thyng before, finding
in his company a certayne smal nu-
ber of gentle men, then meting to-
gether at Paris aboute certayne as-
sayres, professinge the same religi-
on that he doth, prayed them to ac-
pany him to the preaching of godds
worde, appoynted and furnished as
muche as was requisite for theyr
owne defence, w all modestie, ho-
nestie and simplicitie. And al this cō-
pany was but. CC. horse, compting
the gentelmen & seruāts of the sayd
prynce: others also there were dwel-
ling in the said towne, haunting or-
dinarily the preaching of the worde
of God, whiche wente and came
without offendynge anye man in
worde or deede.

The

The prot station of



The morowe after, bycause that the sayd Duke of guyle in steade of going strayght to the court began to fortifye him selfe more and more in the saide towne, the sayd lord p^rince dyd also the lyke for the defence of those of the reformed church & which semed (with Juste occasion) to think that all the sayde force and strength was against them, considering the late deede of Massy, and that there was in this realme no warre beside the common report, that men went aboute to make at Paris a newe decree formably contrary to the first.

Besyd es all this, you muste note that the sayde Duke of Guyle, continuing his course and trade with the Constable and marshall Sayncte Andze and certayne other of theyr companions without the authoritie of the kynge and quene and whiche is more, not making them p^rpyve to anye thing, althoughe the state of the realme requyred not any extraordinary p^rovisyon, kept neuer theles his counsell styll, wherin sate certayne p^resydents of the court
officers

the prynce of Conde

offycers of the kinges , the prouostte and Bourgeses of the towne , euen as though he had bene maister and lozde of this realme. A thinge truly very strange , and suffycient to declare and shewe , that there was amonge them some practyses and secrete enterprises. For as for the constable he was departed from y^e court syre weekes before beyng greatly discontented with the quene , bycause she would not endure nor suffer hys strang facions and maner of doing.

And synce that tyme , for to reuenge him selfe, beyng departed fro his house to go to Paris to hold this goodly counsell, mett the Kinge and the Quene in the waye neyther saluting them , nor yet staying for them made as though he had not knowen them.

On the other parte also , the marshal of Sainct Andre not long before these thyngs was not content to disobey the expresse commaundement y^e the Quene had gyuen hym to go furthw to his charge of gouernemēt but in the open counsel , answered her

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her so arrogantly and proudly that men might easely perceyue y^e he leaned vpon some counsell, and pryue intelligence.

More than this, the sayde Duke of Guyse euen at the begynninge of his comminge to Paris in steade of going streyght to the court, dyd employe all the frendes he had, and sought all meanes he coulde to kepe the Queene at Fontayne bleaur, for feare she shulde go to Orleans. Yet neuertheles hauinge obtained that whiche he had moste instantly required, he hurryd not for all that from Paris: and helped him selfe wyth a newe excuse, bycause that the sayde Lorde prince was there also accompanied wyth a greate number of gentyll men, and that the towne fearinge to be spoyled and sackedged had desyred and prayed hym to tarrye there for to defende it, and thus

doing

the prynce of Conde.

doynge he hathe pꝛiuiely rebuked
the saide Loꝛde pꝛynce of to villa-
nous an intent and purpose . But
the contrarie was sone perceyued.

For the sayde loꝛde pꝛynce to take
from hym all pꝛetence , oꝛ colour in
any thinge, by and by offred hym by
the Cardynall of Bourbon his bro-
ther and gouernour of Paris to go
oute at one gate whan he shoulde
goe oute at the other.

And than afterward being ad-
uertysed that the Queene desyꝛed
that bothe the companyes myghte
goe oute, and that foꝛ thys purpose
the King of Nauarre shoulde be come
into the towne of Paris , he was
so readye and willynge to obeye this
commaundement , that althoughe
he had bene sycke the space of two
dayes in hys bedde , yet he depar-
ted quykely wyth hys companye
stragghte towarde hys house of la
Ferte,

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Ferte, from whence he hoped to haue sent them alwaye incontinent yf the sayde Duke of Guise had done the lyke.

Nowe the sayde Duke of Guise cleane contrarpe sheweyng in effect with hys complices, that by the wil ling departure of the sayde Lorde prynce, he had gotten that he loked for, went to the Kinge with all hys force and armed power as in y time of warre and against his greatest enemies, a thinge trulpy, not sene nor vsed, neyther is it in anye wyse to be allowed or accepted considering the base and tender age of the king, and that the Queene hys mother althoughe she be endued with a singular vertue, and constance could not chose but be a frayde, with a Just feare, seynge her self beset round aboute wpyth suche force and power to gyther wpyth the kynge Duke of Orleans, and my Lorde chanceler contrarpe to her wyll and expresse commaundement, where
of

of sufficient pzoſe maye bee made by
the teares that fell from our kinges
eyes, and by the talke that he had
being forced to ſuffer him ſelfe to be
caried to Meleum theſe dayes late
paſt. The which it ſhall pleaſe them
to remember that were pzeſent. So
that ſuche a comminge of the ſayde
Duke of Guſſe, and leaſynge vpon
the perſons of the king, and queene
his mother, and of the Duke of Or-
leans his bzother, ioynynge here-
with all the ſozeſaid thinges, it can
not be, noꝝ ought to be eſteemed other
than a takynge and captiuitie of
them, and that y moſt hurtful, moſt
miferable and ſhamefull, that euer
chaunced oꝝ coulde chaunce to this
Realme. And vppon this it maye
pleaſe the Queene (mother) to re-
member the admonition and coun-
ſell that was gyuen her by a cer-
ten Portugall, together with a man
of Spaine, & another ſent out of Sa-
nope, as touching y which ſhe nowe
at this day feelet & findeth true, to
the great and extreme greefe of her
moſt obedyent ſubiect & ſeruaunts.

The protestation of

And to thintent that this may be yet better knowen and understode of all true subiectes and faithful seruants. The said lord pynce besides that he declareth things past desy2eth al mē to be aduertised of the enterpyses which is very easy to coniecture and gather, which the fordsaid men doe pretend to execute, to the intent that if they be put in effect by thē, no mā can doubt but y they are very enemies to the king and to his crowne, and on the other side if there be other let them haue so much the more certayne meanes to declare & shew it in abstaining frō suche enterpyses. That is, that hauing beset, and then caried to Meleum y kinge, the quene the yong duke of Orleans, and those which they thought good with armed men, to enioye them at their pleasure they entend to helpe them selues with their authoritie against the saide Lorde pynce, and all other which withstand and resist they2 enterpyses, declarynge them culpable of that which they them selues haue alreadye partlye executed and done,
and

and whereof the sayde lord Prynce
neede not take the payne to excuse
him selfe: seynge the experience and
profe sheweth sufficientlye that all
the dayes of his lyfe he hath myslý-
ked and despyed all that they haue
sought and selwed for, that haue gro-
wen and encreased so sone into such
an honour & greatnesse. that there is
none but Judgeth with al the states
of this realme that it is muche moze
reasonable to demande of them the
cause of it , than it can be easpe for
them to giue a reason why.

And if the sayde Duke of Guyse
with his, synde themselves vnfaultry
in this behalf, they shall do much for
them to purge themselves of it accor-
ding to þ request that þ estats haue
made therein, in steade of troublýngs
both heauen and earth, and to gyue
this occasyon to men to thynke that
they feare nothing moze than to en-
ter into this matter.

The occasyon of that coun-
sell is euýdente ynoughe , to weete
to the intente that all lettes
beynge taken awaye, they myghte

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dispose & rule the realme of France
at their pleasure, and for as much as
to attayne to these ende and purpo-
ses, they knowe they muste haue o-
ther ayde and shozes, men saye that
their drift and policie is, to roote by
and destroy all those of the reformed
churches, that is to say all thei that
resist them, in makynge a certayne
newe decree at theyr owne wyll, by
the meanes of certain hyzed and su-
bozned persons, as well of the Par-
lement of Paris as of elles where,
to the intent that the other parte
shoulde bee as it were indebted to
them, in ruynyng at the least halfe
the realme, for to haue it rather half
at their desyre, than to see it enioye
whollye the quietnes and rest so
much desired of all good men, and
as reiected of those whiche neuer
made their profit but with the
losse and damage of another
man, and of the rui-
ne of the com-
mons.

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The

THE protestation.

These things considered wyth many other whiche time shall discover þe said lord pynce protesteth this that foloweth before the king, þe quene, and the states of this realme, with þe realmes, potentates, lordes, frendes, and allyes, of thys Crowne, and generally before all Chyrtendome.

First that the onely consideration of that which he owyth to god and to his church, with the zeale þe hath particularly to þe crowne of Fraunce vnder the gouernemēt of the quene, and finally the hartye affection that he beareth to the quietnes and tranquillity of this realme, cōstraine him to seke all lawfull meanes according to gods lawe & mans, according to the order and decre þe hath in thys realme, for to deliuer oute of Captiuitie the persō of the king of þe quene his mother, & my lordes her children

B.iii.

and

and to maintain y^e keeping of y^e kings
 decrees & ordenāces, and specially bp
 on y^e matter of religiō, set bp, & made
 by y^e aduise of the p^rinces of y^e bloude
 ryall, lords of the couⁿsel p^resydentes
 and conselours of the parlements, sa
 uing the said men of y^e house of guise
 which now will trust & beleue their
 owne particular aduises. It cannot
 fayle to be such as mē se it to be if it
 were no more but to iustify y^e cruelty
 more than barbarous, which was co
 mitted in the sayd place of Massye.
 Also the said lord p^rince with a good
 nūber of other p^rices, knights, lords
 of the counsel, captaines, gentilmē,
 men of warre, mē of Justice, & lawe,
 marchants, and men of the thre e
 states of this realme, moste affectu
 ously besecheth and requirith with
 all his hart all good faithful & trusty
 subiects and seruants of his maiestie
 rarefully and diligētly to see, reade,
 and way al these foresaid things, for
 feare that lest vnwares in steade of
 succozing and ayding the kynge
 the quene & my lords her children, in
 their captiuitie they be by y^e practises
 and

and false aduertisements of the enemies of y^e peace & tranquillite of this realme, brought to be y^e ministers of y^e destructiō of y^e same. And to preuent and withstand these things he prayeth them to help him and to stave by the crowne of Fraunce now fallen downe if god of his infinite mercy list it not by again wherunto after hanig, called by his grace he craueth y^e aide y^e assistance & fauour of al kings princes and potentates alies & confederates of this crowne the w^{ch} he taketh al for beholders wyttnesses and Judges of his fidelite, & integryte, in the cōseruation of the state of y^e kinge, whose inuocencye full of al good hope hath not deserued to be i captiuitie of those which by y^e benefites of his predecessors & fathers haue bene rayled by in authozite, so that now they shuld so manifestly conspire y^e ruyne of the sōne, of the quene his mother, & of al the estates of this realme.

Moreouer by thys present protestation he meaneth wyth all his compagne to declare hym selfe pure and

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innocent of the blood shed and of the calamities and myseryes wherwyth this realme is threathned throughe the partyculare ambptyon of those which hauing nothing to doe but to looke to the gouernement of thys realme are comme vnto it them selues by armes, for to chase them oute whom both goddes lawe, and mans dyd call vnto, and which were bozne counselours. Against the violence of the which distourbers and disquieters of thys realme, breakers of the decrees, and ordenances of all the estates, he entendeth with al his compaye to bestowe and to spend his body and goodes vnto his last breath as a good and faithfull subiecte and seruant of the crowne of Fraunce, and specially beinge of the house of Fraunce.

Also bycause the sayde men wyll not sayle to abuse the auctoꝛy of the king and y^e Quene whom they kepe in a myserable and vnworthye Captiuitie, for to serue their owne turnes agaynst the faythfull and trustye subiectes of his maiestie. For this

the prynce of Conde.

this cause the sayde lord prynce protesteth and declareth presently that he wil not credyte any letters, messages cōmandemētes, decrees. ordenances, whatsoeuer they be made by the sayde men vnder the name of hys mayestie. For asmuche as it is well known that they shall be forced and gotten by manifestte violence, agaynst all lawe of God and man. For, that accepted, the lorde prynce wpl neuer giue place to any mā, lyinge in the humble obedience that he oweth and wpll giue to his mayestie, and to the Queene hys mother.

More, as touching the king of Navare his brother, the sayde Lorde Prynce protesteth, that wyth the band of brotherly love, & h̄ particular respect that he oweth vnto him, he meaneth to acknowledge hī after the order and degree that he hath in this realme, with all obedience next to the king and Queene, whiche by the common consent of the states, the agreement of the Prynces of the bloode royall, the approbation of the

The protestation of

the parlements of Fraunce, hath receyued y^e gouernance of this realme as also he is assured y^e the sayd kinge of Nauarre consyderinge these foresayd thinges will haue suche regard to it as reason and the p^{re}sent necessity requireth.

The which also the sayd lord p^{ri}nce moste humbly and moste instantely besecheth him to doe.

Also the sayd lord p^{ri}nce to thewe that he speaketh syncerly and truly protesteth, p^{re}sently that in steade of comminge to hande strokes he is ready to vnarme him selfe vpon these conditions folowing, whiche are so reasonable y^e they cannot be refused but of those, that p^{re}fer their owne gayne before the quyetnesse of thys realme. That is to weete, that the king and quene, y^e Duke of orleans, my lord chauncelour, and other of y^e counsell be firste of all set agayne at suche libertie & safftye as they ought to be: which thing canot be done vntill all weapons be laide asyde vnder the name of the king, & in the hands of others than of those which folow

the prynce of Conde,

the sayde men of the counsel holden
at Paris.

Further moze that the sayd of the
house of Guise, the constable & mar-
shall, of S. Andre be sent agayne to
their houses, & that they haue a daye
and place appointed them to come &
appeare before y^e king and the queene
to offer themselves wth al humilite as
they ought to do, for to render a rea-
son of this that is before sayd, & like-
wise of that which was layd against
them before by the estates of thys
realme. For y^e which it is moste rea-
sonable & necessarye that prouision
be made by the king & the queene. And
the sayde lord pryncce for his part of-
fereth likewise to make accompt and
to Justifie him selfe of all y^e men can
laie to his charge or to them of hys
companye, whan and before whome
it shall appertayne, gyven at

Orleans the seven daye
of Aprill in the yere
of our Lord.

1562.

Sygned Loys of Bourbon.

Prynted at Lon-
don by Rouland
Hall , for Ed-
vvard Sutton,
dvvellyng in
Loumbarde
strete, at the
signe of the
Cradell.

1 5 6 2.

